What is claimed is:

1. A system for configuring Internet appliances, comprising:

a server having a connection to a network;

a data repository accessible by the server, and comprising data related to Internet appliances to be configured; and

control routines for configuring Internet appliances via the network connection;

wherein, upon receiving a request from an Internet appliance via the network connection the control routines consult the database for correct procedure, and interact with the appliance via the network connection to configure the appliance for Internet access and operation.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the network connection comprises a COST network.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the dial-up server further comprises an Internet connection, and information from the Internet is used in configuring Internet appliances.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the control routines in the server interact with compatible control routines pre-programmed in the Internet appliance during configuration.

5. An Internet appliance comprising:

a network connection port; and

pre-programmed configuration routines,

wherein, upon connection to the network and initiation by the user the appliance initiates a communication with a configuration server connected to the network, and interacts with compatible routines executing on the server to configure the appliance

6. The Internet appliance of claim 5 wherein the network is a connection-type telephone network.

7. The Internet appliance of claim 6 wherein based on the initiation of the connection the server selects the appropriate routines to service the particular Internet appliance.

8. A method for configuring an Internet appliance, comprising steps of:

(a) pre-programming the Internet appliance having a network port with first configuration routines adapted to interact with a remote network configuration server having second configuration;

(b) connecting the Internet appliance by the network port to a compatible network;

(c) providing an initiation signal at the Internet appliance, the signal causing the appliance to establish communication and initiate interaction with the configuration server; and

(d) configuring the Internet appliance for Internet access by interaction of the first and second configuration routines.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein, in step (a) the network is a connection-type telephony network.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein in step (d) the configuration server uses ANI and DNIS to launch specific configuration routines adapted for the particular appliance.